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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 165
By Walker R

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Shirley Vess on being crowned Ms. Tennessee Senior America 2003.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as superlative ambassadors for the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Vess is one such noteworthy citizen, whose reign as Ms. Tennessee Senior America will surely be categorized as both remarkable and inspirational; and

WHEREAS, the Ms. Senior America Pageant is "a search for the gracious lady who best exemplifies the dignity, maturity, and inner beauty of all senior Americans;" and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Vess honorably represents the Ms. Senior America Pageant, the world's first pageant to honor women who have reached the "Age of Elegance", and she exemplifies the pageant's philosophy that "seniors are the foundation of America, and our most valuable treasure;" and

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WHEREAS, crowned on March 1, 2003, Mrs. Vess is also the reigning Ms. Senior Cumberland County, and will be competing for the Ms. Senior America title in Reno, Nevada, on November 6-9, 2003; and

WHEREAS, born in Chattanooga, Mrs. Vess is a retired accountant who has spent the last several years as a certified aerobics and jazz exercise instructor at the YMCA and for a local community class of senior adults; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Happy Hearts Choir, First Baptist Sanctuary Choir, Tansi Dance Club, Red Hat Society, CMC Wellness Complex, and Fair Park Senior Center, Mrs. Vess is still an actively involved member of her community, even as she nears her eighth decade of life; and

WHEREAS, well known for her affinity for dance, Mrs. Vess has also made a name for herself in music, genealogy, and designing and sewing children's clothes; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Vess has taken to heart the Ms. Senior America Pageant's credo that "it is upon the knowledge, experience, and resources of our senior citizens that the younger generation has the opportunity to build a better society"; she thus inspires the youth of her community; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Vess also gives generously of her time to assist the American Heart Association and Barnabas Ministry at First Baptist Church, and is the Activities Coordinator for Happy Hearts, Meals on Wheels, and Hike for Hospice; and

WHEREAS, a concerned and health-minded activist, Mrs. Vess is a participant in the National Women's Health Initiative, which is a major study of women and their health; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Mrs. Vess is grateful for the love and companionship she shares with James, her husband of forty-eight years, their sons, James Jr. and Scott, and their two grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, an exceptional lady who believes strongly in reaching for the stars and being passionately engaged in life, but who is also firmly grounded in family values, Christian

service, and the joys of everyday life, Mrs. Shirley Vess is truly a worthy representative and accomplished ambassador for Tennessee, and she should be so honored; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Shirley Vess for her dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Shirley Vess upon being crowned Ms. Tennessee Senior America 2003, applaud her positive outlook on life and her stalwart commitment to God, family, and community, and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation, with this final clause omitted from such copy.